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NEWS RELEASE



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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WATER AUTHORITY DIRECTOR OPPOSES PROP. 9

SAN DIEGO, Calif. --A director of San Diego County Water Authority, attorney Gaylord Henry, told governmental attorneys Tuesday the most serious argument against Proposition 9 is the tax shift involved.

Henry, who is adjunct professor at the University of San Diego School of Law, said of the "Watson" amendment: "If the sales tax were used to replace property tax losses, the present sales tax rate would have to be increased from 5 per cent to about 12 per cent."

"At present, 30.2 per cent of total property tax in California is paid by owners of single family homes. And 70 per cent of state sales taxes are paid by consumers. Therefore, with a tax hike to 12 per cent, homeowners would pay far higher total taxes than they pay now," said the attorney.

Henry spoke to the monthly meeting of San Diego County Association of City and Governmental Attorneys, September 24, to inaugurate the new series.

Henry said that the effects of the Watson amendment would directly involve the quality of education. "One of the advantages of California is that we have not been afraid to invest in high quality education for our young people. The result is we have a well trained labor force which enables us to compete successfully with other regions," he said. He suggested the difference between a high quality education and a poor quality one would be reflected in the earning power of the student products of such a system.

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